

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1698

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KREISKY, BRUNO), AU
SUBJ: KREISKY VISIT TO WASHINGTON: AUSTRIAN POLICY AND KREISKY
VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 046505

1. AUSTRIA HAS NOT ARTICULATED GOVERNMENTAL POLICY IN DETAIL
ON MIDDLE EAST BEYOND GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE FOR PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT TO ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT
UN EFFORTS IN THIS RESPECT, E.G., UN RESOLUTIONS AND AUSTRIAN
PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN MIDDLE EAST. THERE IS HOWEVER GENERAL
FEELING AMONG AUSTRIANS THAT EUROPE'S VITAL INTEREST IN
MIDDLE EAST OIL NECESSITATES CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ARAB
COUNTRIES. ACCORDINGLY, IT HAS BEEN CHANCELLOR KREISKY,
ACTING IN ROLE AS SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSIONS TO MIDDLE
EAST, WHO HAS SET OUT PARAMETERS FOR WHAT COMES CLOSEST
TO BEING OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY, ALTHOUGH KREISKY
HIMSELF USUALLY DONS PARTY HAT WHEN TALKING ON SUBJECT.

2. KREISKY'S POINT OF DEPARTURE IS RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S
RIGHT TO EXIST BUT ALSO OF NEED OF ISRAEL TO NEGOTIATE
WITH PLO AND TO RECOGNIZE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF
PALESTINIAN ARABS. H TOLD ISRAEL LABOR PARTY CONTRESS
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LAST MONTH THA IN HIS VIEW PLO ATTITUDES TOWARD ISRAEL
HAVE MODERATED SIGNIFICANTLY AND THAT CURRENT
ENCOURAGING SITUATION MUST BE SEIZED TO PROMOTE
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. ALTHOUGH KREISKY PROBABLY IS
CONSIDERED TO BE NAIVE AND A POLITICAL GADFLY BY SOME
ISRAELIS, HIS VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SEEM TO CARRY
WEIGHT IN OTHER ISRAELI QUARTERS SINCE HE NOW HAS

CREDENTIALS OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ON
SUBJECT, WAS NAZI REFUGEE HIMSELF DURING WORLD WAR II
AND HAS KEPT AUSTRIA INVOLVED IN ASSISTING SOVIETS
JEWISH EMIGRES IN SPITE OF ARAB PRESSURES.

3. KREISKY HOWEVER RECOGNIZES THAT ONLY U.S. IS ABLE
TO MEDIATE IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND SUGGESTED
RECENTLY TO SECRETARY CLIFFORD THAT SINCE ISRAEL
RECEIVES ARMS AND MONEY FROM U.S., IT SHOULD ALSO
BE WILLING TO ACCEPT ADVICE FROM SAME QUARTER. AS
KREISKY SEES SITUATION, ACT OF POLITICAL WILL ON
ISRAELI SIDE IS NECESSARY; ALTERNATIVE IS OVERTHROW
OF MODERATE ARAB REGIMES, LEFTIST RADICALIZATION
THROUGHTOUT ARAB WORLD, AND RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES.BUCHANAN

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